Single use surgical items manufactured by foreign companies

*127. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various foreign companies manufacturing syringes and other single use surgical items are flooding the Indian market;

(b) whether Government are aware that the packages of most of such items do not carry the statutory labelling information;

(c) whether the consumers are being charged for the items according to the whims of the chemists and stockists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be teken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Under the import policy disposable syringes and needles can be imported into the country. However, the majority of such items sold in India are assembled within the country. There are very few importers of finished disposable syringes and needles.

(b) The requirements of labelling are set out under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules and have to be adhered to. Other than the absence of MRP and import license number in a few imported consignments, no other labelling violation has been brought to the notice of the authorities. The importers as well as Port Officers have been directed to ensure that the MRP and import license number are displayed on the outer packaging cartons.

(c) Disposable syringes and needles are not covered under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO); nor has the Drug Controller General (India) received any official complaints from Consumers in this regard.

(d) In view of (c) does not arise.

Real Inventor of Radio

*128. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers finding that the real inventor of Radio was Jagdish Chandra Bose and not Marconi as reported in the Pioneer, dated 4.11.97;

(b) whether Government would mention this fact in the Science text books used in Indian schools and colleges;

(c) whether Government would consider naming a major New Delhi Road after J.C. Bose; and

(d) whether Government would move the Nobel Committee in Sweden to consider withdrawing the Nobel Prize for Science from Marconi and awarding it to J.C. Bose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Life and achievements of Prof. J.C. Bose have been prominently included in the text books. The agencies concerned with revision of text books are free to revise the text books taking into account various developoments which take place concerning specific issues.

(c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

(d) Nobel Committee is a private institution and is governed by its own statutes. Scientific institutions pursue an issue like this with the Nobel Committee as appropriate.